AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An automatic sampler, comprising:

a needle adapted to draw a sample from a sample liquid bath and to inject the sample into a sample introducing portion which is in fluid communication with a column of a liquid chromatography;

a first rinsing bath adapted to contain a first rinsing liquid;

a second rinsing bath adapted to contain at least one kind of second rinsing liquid;

an exchanging mechanism operable to exchange the second rinsing liquid in the second rinsing bath; and

a controller, configured to execute, in accordance with selection of an operator, at least one of a first rinsing operation which soaks the needle in the first rinsing liquid in the first rinsing bath, and a second rinsing operation which soaks the needle in the second rinsing liquid in the second rinsing bath and exchanges the second rinsing liquid while the needle is kept inserted into the second rinsing bath.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method for rinsing a needle of an automatic sampler, said method comprising:

providing a first rinsing bath containing a first rinsing liquid;

providing a second rinsing bath ~~containing~~ substantially filled with a second rinsing liquid;

causing an operator to select at least one of a first rinsing operation in which the needle is soaked in the first rinsing liquid in the first rinsing bath, and a second rinsing operation in which the needle is soaked in the second rinsing liquid in the second rinsing bath and the second rinsing liquid is exchanged while the needle is kept inserted into the second rinsing bath, the second rinsing liquid being exchanged by overflowing from a top opening of the second rinsing bath when the needle is soaked therein while simultaneously introducing second rinsing liquid into the second rinsing bath; and

executing the at least one of the first rinsing operation and the second rinsing operation selected by the operator.

4. (Previously Presented) The method for rinsing a needle of an automatic sampler according to claim 3, further comprising:

selecting one of plural kinds of liquid as the second rinsing liquid to be supplied to the second rinsing bath to exchange the second rinsing liquid in the second rinsing bath.

5. (Previously Presented) An automatic sampler, comprising:

a needle adapted to draw a sample from a sample liquid bath and to inject the

sample into a sample introducing portion which is in fluid communication with a column of a liquid chromatography;

a first rinsing bath adapted to contain first rinsing liquid;

a second rinsing bath having a top opening and adapted to contain at least one kind of second rinsing liquid;

a controller, configured to execute at least one of a first rinsing operation which soaks the needle in the first rinsing liquid in the first rinsing bath, and a second rinsing operation which soaks the needle in the second rinsing liquid in the second rinsing bath and exchanges the second rinsing liquid while the needle is kept inserted into the second rinsing bath; and

a pump fluidly connected to the second liquid bath irrespective of a position of the needle; and

an exhaust adjacent to the top opening of the second rinsing bath,

wherein said pump is configured to be controlled by the controller to supply the second rinsing liquid to the second rinsing bath such that the second rinsing liquid in the second rinsing bath overflows into the exhaust when the needle is soaked in the second rinsing bath so as to exchange the second rinsing liquid in the second rinsing bath.

6. (Previously Presented) The automatic sampler according to claim 5, further comprising:

a switcher, configured to select one of plural kinds of liquid as the second rinsing liquid supplied to the second rinsing bath.